

It's a great moment for those of us who care about making goods in America.

We are celebrating an American success story. As we celebrate Chrysler's repayment of its loans to the government, we also remember that this outcome was not always guaranteed. Two years ago, Chrysler and General Motors were in danger of shutting their doors.

President Obama and his leadership were absolutely critical. So many other people who are running for president totally opposed our efforts to save the American automobile industry.

We were able to prevail because no great power should ever allow such an important industry to collapse. It's just too important to our industrial and defense base. And this region is the heart of American automotive production.

It's nice to do something for America for a change. It really did make a difference for America, at a time when she needed us.

Congratulations to Chrysler—management and workers. Congratulations for keeping your end of the bargain and paying back the loans ahead of schedule, with interest.

We stand ready to forge ahead with you in building on the successes of the past 18 months and look forward to more good news in the future.